

RESEARCH IDENTIFICATION REPORT

Date 7/26/41

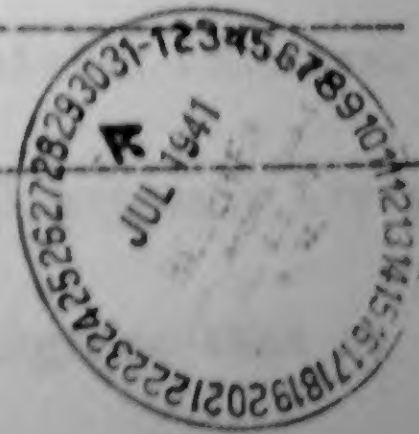
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COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO. W. VA. POCAH. CO.

The livestock industry of Pocahontas County is its greatest industry at this time and the money derived from sale of the same is the largest of any industry in the county, much of this livestock is bought by our local livestock buyer and dealer George P Edgar of Hillsboro who buys and ships cattle and sheep not only from this county but all the adjoining counties.

In traveling through the county on route 219 you will see many herds of beef cattle and many flocks of sheep grazing in the bluegrass that is found so plentiful in the Little Levels section, but today many of these beef cattle are being replaced by their slim sister the dairy cow as many farmers throughout the county have taken to dairying either shipping their cream or selling to a truck from Ronceverte but today dairying is in its infancy in Pocahontas County but should be one of the leading industries in a few years as we have ideal climatic conditions along with abundance of bluegrass pasture and ample grain. Hogs are not as plentiful as in years past due to lack of mast that use to be so plentiful especially before the blight killed the chestnut trees but today some farmers are specializing in hog raising, on these farms you will find from 100 to 150 hogs being fattened for the farm markets each fall from grain largely produced at home. Along about 1900 before hogs roamed the mountains about at will and oftentimes wild hogs had to be hunted and killed like the wild hog in ancient times, they had

living from the woods eating mast,worms,roots and etc.therefore producing cheap meat but times have changed as we have very little mast and very few if any hogs running at large in the mountains.

Pocahontas County ranks high in the production of both poultry and eggs and you find a small flock of chickens on every farm in the county most of which are General purpose or utility chickens but scattered about throughout the county you will find a goodly sized flock of layers and now and then a flock of show birds the latter being exhibited at both the Pocahontas County Fair at Marlinton and at the Greenbrier County Fair near Lewisburg in Greenbrier County.The income derived from the sale of chickens and eggs pays the farmers grocery bills as a general thing.Most of the live poultry going to Philadelphia Pa.and to Baltimore Md.and during the holiday season it is not uncommon to see from 300 to 350 coops of chickens going down on the train this means several thousands of dollars to the farmers of this section each year.

It is very convincing that the livestock industry is the main industry of the county at this time,this being a limestone section and with the lime and phosphate that is being applied in connection with the soil conservation program Pocahontas County will be able to produce more and better livestock in years to come as it always has been a county that produced livestock of very high quality,but the government program for the farmer will make the

more fertile.

Many horses are produced in Pocahontas County, especially the draft or heavy horse as the hard road and the automobile have caused a decrease in the raising of saddle horses, but the tractor has done much to cut down in the numbers of draft horses on farms over the county.

Several flocks of goats are found throughout the county most of which are used in clearing land, as they are great for eating and peeling small and young growth timber and sprouts.

The principal agricultural products of Pocahontas County are corn, oats, wheat, hay, potatoes, apples, peaches, grapes and rye in the approximate order named. At the present time the production of potatoes is getting considerable consideration as it has been found that farmers of Pocahontas County can produce a quality potatoe equal to the ones shipped in from Maine and other potato producing states of the east, therefore the potato acreage of the county is growing each year and with proper care we have yields of from 400 to 500 bushels of quality potatoes most of which are sold within the state to some of the larger hotels and restaurants, mainly at the Greenbrier Hotel at White Sulphur Springs and at Covington Va. all bringing market price and greatly in demand as these hotels, as they have a trade that demands the best. Pocahontas county is not a grain county as she does not produce

ough wheat to bread her therefore she has to depend on outside supplies for flour.Today you find Hybrid corn growing in many sections of the county where it use to be impossible in the days of our pioneer ancestors to get any ~~EE~~ corn to ripen at all,and this had to be on low land near the river,but today corn ripens in any part of the county.Much of the corn raised in Pocahontas is put in silos for winter feeding.Oats are the principal crop of the mountainous sections of the county where it is rather cool the summer through as they do well in a cool climate,the same as potatoes therefore the Williams River and Cranberry sections are good for potatoes and oats,and have been since the county was first settled.

Information-W.Va.Geological Survey.By Paul Price.

W.Va.News. Ronceverte.W.Va.By Edd Blake.
Agricultural Statistios.

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